

REMARKS

The Office Action dated April 2, 2008 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-5 and 7-20 are pending. Claim 6 has been cancelled without prejudice. Reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action suggestion to add section headings to the specification (under 37 CFR 1.77(b), however respectfully declines to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a).

Moreover, Applicants prefer not to add section headings, for consistency with the parent application. Such section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC 111(a), but per 37 CFR 1.51(d) are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. They are not mandatory, and in fact when Rule 77 was amended in 1996 (61 FR 42790, Aug. 19, 1996), Bruce A. Lehman, Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, stated in the Official Gazette:

"Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... 1.77 merely expresses the Office's preference for the arrangement of the application elements. The Office may advise an applicant that the application does not comply with the format set forth in 1.77, and suggest this format for the applicant's consideration; however, the Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77."

Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75.

A later amendment to 37 CFR 1.77 (65 FR 54628
<http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/sol/notices/patbusgoals.pdf>) does not change this.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-12, 14-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,611,802). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al. in view of Friedland (U.S. Patent 6,347,296). Claims 5, 13 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al. in view of Pratley et al. (U.S. Patent 7,149,970).

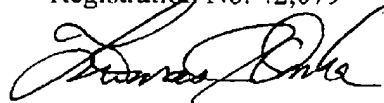
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11, 16 and 18 have been to include the limitations of claim 6. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable.

With regard to the dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17, 19 and 20, these claims ultimately depend from one of the independent claims 1, 11, 16 or 18, which have been shown to be allowable in view of the cited references. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7-10, 12-15, 17, 19 and 20 are also allowable by virtue of their dependence from an allowable base claim.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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